

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## REMEMBERING ROBERT SIMKO

### HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 16, 2022*

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of my longtime constituent Robert Simko, a true renaissance man and a beloved member of the Lower Manhattan community.

Mr. Simko, co-founder of Lower Manhattan's long-running local news outlet *The Broadsheet*, passed away on November 10, 2022 at the age of 68 after a years-long battle with a cancer that has been linked to exposure to toxic dust that hung over Manhattan in the aftermath of the September 11th attacks.

An accomplished photographer, publisher, musician, mechanic and watchmaker, Mr. Simko was an admired figure in the Battery Park City Community and a beloved husband, father, brother and uncle.

Born in 1954 in Bayonne, New Jersey, to John, a bus driver, and Florence, a nurse, Robert was the middle child of 5 siblings. He took up the accordion at a young age and later the piano.

In college, he developed 2 other passions that lasted the rest of his life—photography and working on cars. After transferring from Rutgers University to the Rhode Island School of Design, he studied photography under Aaron Siskind and other leading photographers.

Following his graduation, Mr. Simko moved to New York City, settling 1st in Tribeca and then in Battery Park City at the brand-new Gateway Plaza, when it was surrounded by empty fields and Brookfield Place was under construction.

Mr. Simko started working in New York as an assistant to photographers Arnold Newman and Burt Glinn, cataloging and printing their portraits of world leaders and celebrities.

In the 1980s, Mr. Simko was recruited by Clay Felker to work as a photographer at *Adweek* magazine, where he began both his career in journalism and a lifelong partnership with a reporter named Alison.

He and Alison married in 1987. Their daughter Lucy was born in 1989 and their son Theo was born in 1997. That same year, Mr. and Mrs. Simko launched *The Broadsheet*, initially titled *The Battery Park City Broadsheet*. Since 1997, the *Broadsheet* has continued to cover Lower Manhattan in print, on its website, and as the 5-day-a-week *Broadsheet Daily*.

A success from its 1st issue, the *Broadsheet* quickly became a fixture of the community and build a voice for the budding neighborhood. Mr. Simko's commitment to his beloved neighborhood and Lower Manhattan was legible in every edition.

When the terrorist attacks on September 11th shook the world, our city, and his neighborhood, Mr. Simko stayed until late afternoon to capture the second plane's fireball, the burning towers, and the ash-covered neighbor-

hood following the towers' collapse. He, his wife Alison, and his team felt a sense of mission to quickly resume publication and write about conditions in the aftermath and the future of the community.

When delivery workers were unable to enter Battery Park City, Mr. and Mrs. Simko personally delivered the *Broadsheet* to neighborhood lobbies. Residents cried when they saw the 1st issue after September 11th and, to this day, remember the *Broadsheet* as confirmation that the neighborhood would be okay.

Tragically, Mr. Simko's cancer was linked to his exposure to environmental toxins during and after the attacks. The toll of the toxins and the subsequent illnesses they wrought to not only those who worked on the pile but also residents in my district like Mr. Simko who returned to their homes, cleaned up and revitalized this neighborhood laid bare the need for the Federal Government to provide survivors with quality health care and financial support. I was proud that after over a decade of fighting we passed the James Zadruga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act of 2010 and its reauthorization in 2015, and we created and fully funded the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund for survivors and responders.

Mr. Simko is survived by his wife Alison, and their children Lucy and Theo, who continue to further his legacy through their continued dedication to the community, its culture and the *Broadsheet*.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Robert Simko and his significant contributions to Lower Manhattan. Even in our darkest days, Mr. Simko was a beacon of light, who captured countless moments and helped weave our community together. He touched the lives of thousands of his readers and neighbors, and his legacy will be felt for years to come.

## HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN H. MOON SR.

### HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 16, 2022*

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my friend and longtime community leader, John Moon Sr. of Pasadena, Texas, who passed away on December 7, 2022.

John was born on August 19, 1937, in Van Buren, Arkansas, to Benjamin and Alma Moon. He married the love of his life, Rose A. Moon, on August 16, 1958. They had two sons: John Moon Jr. and Randall Moon.

John became a Certified Public Accountant at the age of 21, one of the youngest in Texas history. He was soon hired by Texas Eastern Transmission and relocated his family to Houston. Several years later, he accepted an opportunity at the Houston Research Center and eventually became a bank owner.

In 1970, John was invited to join the Rotary Club of Pasadena. Since that time, he has

never missed a meeting. John was the epitome of a Rotarian, serving the community with leadership and compassion.

In 1973, John was named "Outstanding Young Man of the Year" by the Pasadena Junior Chamber of Commerce. Nearly 20 years later, he was named the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce's "Citizen of the Year" and was eventually inducted into the Pasadena Hall of Fame. John's devotion to his community was truly remarkable. Over the years, he held positions on the Harris County Industrial Commission, Sam Houston Parkway Transportation Corp., San Jacinto River Authority, and Harris County Economic Development Council.

John's civic and philanthropic work for Pasadena and Harris Counties remains unmatched. He exemplified the Rotary motto, "Service Above Self."

Madam Speaker, it is a privilege to honor my friend, John Moon Sr. I know this is something he would have cherished. My most sincere prayers are being sent to his family and friends during this difficult time.

## TRIBUTE TO HONOR ANTHONY S. FAUCI, M.D.

### HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 16, 2022*

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of Dr. Anthony Fauci who is retiring from public service after dedicating nearly six decades to improving the health and wellbeing of the American people and saving countless lives.

As former President Barack Obama declared, Dr. Fauci is "a once-in-a-century public health leader." As Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases since 1984, Dr. Fauci has managed and overseen an extensive multibillion dollar research portfolio on HIV/AIDS, respiratory infections, tuberculosis, malaria, Ebola, Zika, and Covid-19. He has advised seven Presidents and is respected and admired globally, especially for his work as one of the principal architects of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

As the author of more than 1,400 scientific publications and as the 44th most-cited living researcher, he has made seminal contributions to the study of HIV, rheumatology, and immunoregulation. He is the recipient of prestigious awards, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the National Medal of Science, the George M. Kober Medal of the Association of American Physicians, and the Mary Woodard Lasker Award for Public Service. He also has received 58 honorary doctoral degrees from universities in the United States and abroad. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Medicine, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

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